



Rochester City Golf News

Summer, 2018

Golf Talk

Not unlike other businesses, the Golf Division has experienced many epic computer challenges this spring. We apologize for the service inconveniences and are confident our recent hardware upgrade has fixed the problem. It's not a question of "if" but "when" we're able to offer online tee times, acquiring usable software is on our list of priorities.

New scorecards with new yardages and slightly modified course/slope ratings are making their debut at **Soldiers Field GC** this summer. Blue and White tee yardages were shortened slightly, the Gold tees were shortened 70 yards with the addition of a new, shorter tee box on the 13th hole.... New tees signs will soon be installed on the golf course, thanks in part to a \$2,500 contribution from the Soldiers Field Men's Senior league for the project.... A new entry doorway will be installed in the clubhouse to provide easy access into the restaurant from the park or parking lot.... As in past years, over 400 kids will be reached through the First Tee Junior Golf Program at **Hadley Creek GC** this year.... A special thanks to all who have donated golf clubs and balls to the First Tee and Special Olympics programs, over 80 sets have been donated in the past year and we're always able to make use of them, provided they are of a more recent and "modern" style. Junior instructional programs at **Eastwood GC** have long been one of the best run and well taught in Southern Minnesota. This year assistant pro John Murphy will help with swing instruction and pass on some of his tournament experience with the advanced junior group on the golf course... Summer is a great time for Eastwood GC's couples golf with fun formats for any skill level.... For the sixth straight year, the Section 1AA golf championships were hosted at Eastwood GC, a testament to the quality of the golf course and the service provided to contestants and coaches... Forward tees were added to the 11th and 13th holes at **Northern Hills GC**, shortening each hole about 40 yards and adding playability.... Pending Park Board approval, it's hoped that ground breaking on a new clubhouse will happen in early October with completion by early spring next year.... The National Drive, Chip and Putt competition will be held, for the 4th consecutive year, at Northern Hills GC on July 9th. Over 100 kids typically participate and spectators are welcome... Congratulations to Northern Hills pro Mike Manahan, who passed his PGA required playing ability test at Pine Island GC shooting 76-72.

Information provided by Rochester City Golf Professionals: Jeff Gorman, Mike Manahan, David Richardson, and Bill "Watty" Watson.

Turf Talk

The quick change from winter to summer has kept everyone on the Golf Maintenance Staff busy with grass mowing and trimming, irrigation needs and repair, mechanical repairs, and more. Overall golf course conditions have been quite good this year, a testament to the skill and dedication of the entire maintenance staff.

There's been lots of activity at **Eastwood GC** this year, with about 60 tree stumps removed, surrounding areas seeded and cared for. About 30 ash trees were removed over the winter, along with other non essential trees, in some areas where additional air and sunlight will improve turfgrass conditions.... The fairway bunker on hole #14 will be renovated and improved this summer, improving drainage and reducing limestone mixing in with the sand.... New grass seed should be popping up in bare spots around the golf course, particularly in the rough in areas where it's needed.... New sand has also been added to bunkers as needed at **Soldiers Field GC**. As is typical, it's taken the sand several weeks to become compacted and playable.... A new treatment to prevent grass seedheads from developing on the putting greens has worked well in increasing the smoothness of the greens.... The slow start to the season delayed seeding the 9th green at **Northern Hills GC** until early summer, a specific mix of soil is required to provide the proper base. Cold, wet weather slowed up the availability of the needed material. Sod has been placed around the green and grass will grow and become established throughout the summer. The green will open in the late fall if possible..... The practice tee at **Hadley Creek GC** is on its regular rotation of applying a sand/grass seed mixture to a portion of the tee every three weeks. This allows for adequate turf growth and really good practice conditions.... Putting greens on the golf course will be deeply verticut and sanded once a month this summer, providing a smoother putting surface and more consistent speed.... Holes #3, #4, and #7 will see their bunkers edged and sand added, this will maintain the structure and look of the bunkers.

Information provided by Rochester City Golf Superintendents/Mechanics: Dave Brudwick, Joe Fischer, Jeff Minske, Mike Senjem, and Steve Theobald.

Summer Report



Paul Widman

Parks and Recreation Director

A late spring was a challenge for Parks and Recreation. We had a full month of warm weather activity on the golf courses, sports fields and throughout the Park system. We are preparing for Parks and Recreation Month in July. We will be offering free swim days and directing residents and visitors to our golf courses and numerous other programs and activities throughout the park system.

Planning for the 2019 budget is well underway. Highlights include adjusting seasonal staff wages to address the competitive labor market in Rochester and providing more operational support to Cascade Lake and other expanded areas of the park system. Our golf team did an excellent job of preparing a budget request that provides ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the courses and addresses some of the bigger projects needed throughout the four courses.

Did you know that the four municipal golf courses in Rochester produce over \$1.2 million in revenue annually? Another surprising financial fact about the Parks and Recreation Department is that the entire system, including 4 major indoor facilities, 2 outdoor pools, 100 miles of trail, 120 parks, and 4,000 acres of parkland costs each resident just over \$4.75 per month or \$57 per year. That is much lower than surrounding communities. The system provides excellent health and economic benefits to the residents of Rochester.

You have undoubtedly noticed many returning seasonal employees as well as a few new faces. Please take the time to say hello and get to know our team members. I am always amazed at the communication and logistics involved in transitioning from snow to fully functional golf operation in just a matter of weeks. Thanks to the Golf Pros and our Superintendents and golf technical staff for coordinating this transformation.

New for 2018! \$50 Patron Pass

Patron Pass holders receive a 25% green fee discount at all four Rochester City golf courses for the entire 2018

Stroke Saver

Is your golf game stuck in a rut? Is frustration creeping in? Are you looking for a spark to get back on track?

If so, your Rochester City Golf Pros can help. We love to talk golf when time allows, and we may be able to help find a swing thought that works for you.

There's no cost, no obligation, and no guarantees, but we enjoy helping others enjoy their time on the golf course!



Stroke Saver

Mike Manahan
Golf Professional
Northern Hills GC



In golf, your short game, especially putting, is primarily based on “feel”. With that being said, you still need solid mechanics to give yourself the best chance for success.

Judging your distance when putting is a must. Here is a great drill to help: Place your feet shoulder width apart. Place your ball in the middle of your feet. On your first putt, take the putter back to the inside of your back foot and follow through to the inside of your front foot. This will give you a “guide” as to how far the ball travels. Repeat with the same idea, but changing your stop and start points. i.e. Outside of back foot to outside of front foot.

You'll notice the different distances the ball travels based on the length of your backswing. When you're on the golf course, decide on the length backswing you want before you hit your putt and your distance control will improve.

**The Eastwood Grill
at Eastwood Golf Club
Dave Nogosek, Owner/Operator**



Hometown— North Minneapolis. I've been a Rochester resident for about 30 years.

I've been at the Eastwood Grill since 2014, this is my first year as the owner.

What type of menu do you have?

Mostly burgers and sandwiches along with daily specials. We also have a popular fish fry every Friday night.

How about other Specials?

We host wedding receptions and many other events for groups up to 100. We take pride in providing great service along with great food and drink.

We serve breakfast 7 days a week, all year. We're also open many days in the winter and can cater just about any event. We think of ourselves as a friendly neighborhood restaurant and grill for golfers and non-golfers alike.

How's your golf game?

I'm a weekend warrior, when I can find the time!

Million Dollar Hole-In-One Shoot-Out

June 20-22 at Hadley Creek GC

\$35/book for 40 shots



Great Daily Prizes!

\$1,000 to the Finals Winner, \$1,000,000 for an Ace!

Additional Information and Coupon Books **with great discounts** are available at any Rochester City Golf Shop.

Qualifying Yardage - 116 Yards

Million Dollar Yardage - 150 Yards



Golf By The Numbers

Season Pass Sales Through May 31	2017	2018
Adult	167	176
Couple	25	44
Family	38	21
Futures	118	123
Junior	59	65
Patron	116	311
Senior	260	269
Senior Couple	102	108
Young Adult	78	76
Young Adult Couple	11	16
Hadley Creek Adult	106	50
Hadley Creek Family	10	7

"Good" Golfable Days	2017	2018
May	13	20
Year-To-Date	22	24

Golf Rounds Through May 31

	2017	2018*
Season Pass	14,091	11,338
Green Fee	6,207	6,016
Total	20,298	17,354

* 2018 golf rounds include Hadley Creek GC golf rounds, which weren't included in 2017

Meet The Staff



Dave Brudwick
Golf Course Superintendent
Eastwood Golf Club

Hometown: Rochester, MN

Family: Wife: Melissa - Daughters: Emily & Lily

How long have you worked in the City Golf Division?
17 years

Are there any special considerations or challenges in maintaining Eastwood?

The back 9 holes of the golf course have required a lot of attention due to the poor natural drainage that exists. Since it opened in 2007 we've added additional tile lines to improve drainage, repaired the hillsides on holes #12, and #15, and added cart paths as possible. With some finishing touches completed with drainage on holes #15 & #16 last fall, we're now in much better shape when it rains.

What's your favorite hole at Eastwood and why?
#17 is my favorite, it has a pretty look to it.

What's the best part of your job?

Looking at the results of the golf course after a week of hard work. The beautification of the course is the best feeling ever!

What advice can you pass on to those trying to maintain their lawns as well as you maintain Eastwood GC?

Hire a lawn service! Or, if not, get on a good turf program. Aerifying your lawn once or twice a year is also ideal, it lets the grass plants "breathe" by allowing additional air and water into root system.

How's your golf game?

It comes and goes. With Lily playing golf at Century HS I seem to play more than I used too.

What's your favorite golf course of all you've played?

The TPC at Sawgrass, the course with the island green that hosts the annual PLAYERS Championship in May.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What safety procedures are practiced when lightning is nearby?

Each city golf course is closed when a lightning storm approaches within 8 miles of the golf course. Golfers with cell phones are asked to monitor conditions and stop golfing when lightning approaches. Each city golf course uses airhorns to notify golfers when lightning storms approach, although such airhorns can't always be heard by all golfers. All golfers are asked to discontinue play when a lightning storm is within 8 miles of the golf course.



What are your raincheck policies?

Our raincheck policies are as user friendly as just about any in the golf industry. A raincheck is provided to golfers who have yet to complete the 5th hole of a 9 hole round or the 14th hole of an 18 hole round. A 9 hole raincheck, of course, would be given to all golfers completing 5-13 holes.



Did You Know?

As Tiger Woods resumes his chase of Jack Nicklaus' record 18 major championships won, Minnesota's own Patty Berg has held the women's record of 15 major championship titles for more than 60 years.

Berg won 63 tournaments during a remarkable career begun in 1940 continuing into the 1970's. Through hundreds of clinics and exhibitions in the US and around the world, she became one of golf's greatest ambassadors.

Visit us at Rochestermngolf.com for more information!